



FIRST FACTS



A monthly publication of **First Presbyterian Church** · Cape Girardeau, Missouri · April 2017

Seeking the Heart of God in the Heart of the City

April always brings change. That's my experience. You can definitely see a change in the weather. We're seeing the signs of new life all around as trees bud and flowers bloom. Weeks ago I told you that Lent literally means "spring." In a liturgical sense, Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) when we as Christians prepare for the new life that Easter promises.



At the center of our convictions is the idea that new life is first a gift of God. That gift however demands a grateful response from us in acts of service on our part. Any gift we value is worth expressions of gratitude to the giver. The practice of Lent often involves fasting, prayer, and repentance. We "give up" something in order to focus ourselves on something more important. We seek God's guidance and will. We remember the past in order to learn from our mistakes and amend our ways. Sometimes we take up something new to enrich this Lenten journey. It could be Bible study or visiting the sick. These are all disciplines of gratitude that stretch us beyond ourselves as we learn and grow and trust more fully in God.

As a congregation we've embraced this journey through Lent and into Easter. We've studied John's stories of the raising of Lazarus, the woman at the well, the healing of the blind man, and others. These stories help us see Jesus' mission and locate ourselves within the greater narrative of God's story of redemption. We have also reached out to better understand the dynamics of our neighborhood. The story of this church is interwoven with the story of downtown Cape Girardeau. First Presbyterian has been a part of the evolving life of the city since 1835. But that story is constantly unfolding. We live in a dynamic time.

Our series "Seeking the Heart of God in the Heart of the City" has been about pursuing God's plan for this church, in this location, in service to our community. Signs of new life are all around us! God is making a way through the wilderness. We don't know yet fully what God has in store but we can trust in the goodness of God and in the hope of resurrection promised in Jesus Christ. In the meantime, we're filled with gratitude for God's sustaining grace.

As we enter Holy Week I hope you'll be here for the services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter. They promise to be a blessing to you and to this congregation. On Palm Sunday we'll wave the palms and welcome eight new members, four by confirmation, and four by reaffirmation of faith or transfer. These new members believe that God is doing good things at First Presbyterian and they want to be part of it. Indeed, they are already part of it! On Maundy Thursday we'll gather at 6:00 p.m. for supper followed at 6:30 by a presentation by Jon and Rex Rust of Rust Communications. We'll then worship and remember our Savior's last supper with his disciples before he died.

On Easter we'll celebrate! Invite a friend and bring your family. God is here! God is full of new life and promises resurrection. Our only response can be to follow where God leads in gratitude for the gift of new life he brings.

Rev. Terry Epling
Transitional Pastor

Sunday School

NURSERY: Our nursery is open from 9 a.m. on Sunday morning through our worship service, for children birth through kindergarten. Children will be escorted upstairs from the nursery to the worship service for the "Kids" Message and then will return to the nursery. In the nursery they may participate in a brief Sunday School lesson and activity. Children are welcome to join their parents for the worship service at any time. **Parents come to the nursery after worship to pick up their children.**

CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL: The Children and Youth Classes meet in their classrooms directly after the "Kid's Message" in the worship service. The Elementary Class (Kindergarten through Fourth Grade) is studying a series of lessons about "The Life of Jesus". The lessons this semester will focus on the early years of Jesus's life, his Baptism, his teaching, and choosing his disciples. The class meets in the classroom next to the nursery. The Junior High Class is using *The Good News Bible* for a study of the 66 books of the Bible. The class looks at each book of the Bible and what lessons and stories it teaches. They are keeping a journal of important Bible verses. This class meets in their classroom on the second floor. **ALL CHILDREN IN WORSHIP ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR THESE CLASSES.**

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session on March 21, 2017

1. Unanimously approved with commendation and gratitude the Ministry Information Form (MIF) prepared by the Pastor Nominating Committee. Reverend Epling will send it on to Presbytery March 22 for its review and approval to begin our official online matching with pastor candidates.
2. Voted to schedule a Called Session Meeting for Sunday, April 9, at 10 a.m in the Parlor to examine and receive into membership the following: Confirmands Trinity Carlson, Bella Carlson, Elsie Harris and Emma Wolfe as well as Stephanie and Dave Bengtson on transfer of membership from the Trenton, MO Presbyterian Church and Karen and Henry Wilkenson on reaffirmation of faith.
3. Approved purchase of a new computer to replace the failing computer used by the Church Secretary.
4. Re-elected Elder Paul Farris to one more year on the Endowment Committee as the Session representative. Elder Mike Brown at last month's Session meeting had been elected to the Endowment Committee representing the Administrative Ministry Center (combined Finance Committee and Property Committee) of the Session.
5. Approved Reverend Epling being away on Sunday, April 2. He has arranged for our worship and Communion service that day to be conducted by Miriam Foltz, campus minister at UKirk St. Louis. UKirk or University Church is the Presbyterian worshipping community for students at Washington University and St. Louis University and college-age students in the area. She is a graduate of Union Seminary in Virginia.



New Members will be received in worship on Palm Sunday, April 9th. We would like to welcome Elsie Harris, Emma Wolfe, Trinity Carlson, Bella Carlson, Stephanie & Dave Bengston and Karen & Henry Wilkinson as new members. If you are considering becoming a member of this congregation, please talk to Pastor Terry.



Gather Share & Eat will be April 9th. We will be having a Fried Chicken dinner complete with mashed potatoes & biscuits & gravy, green beans, salad or slaw & a dessert.



On Maundy Thursday, April 13th, we will have spaghetti, salad & garlic bread with a dessert in Fellowship Hall at 6:00pm. Following dinner, at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary, our guest speakers will be Rex and Jon Rust, Co-Presidents of Rust Communications to continue our Lenten series "Seeking the Heart of God in the Heart of the City." Following their talk there will be a worship service with communion and music by the choir. Please call the office if you plan to attend either or both of these events.



Sunday, April 9, a Called Session Meeting at 10:00 am in the Parlor



Annual Easter Egg Hunt--Please gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 a.m. on Easter morning. We will have the children hunt for eggs and then return to the Fellowship Hall for snacks and activities. You may bring your own Easter basket if you like, but we will have some available. We hope to see you there.



The next meeting for the Book Club will be Thursday, April 6 at the home of Jeanne Hirsch with the book being "The Road to Little Dribbling" by Bill Bryson.



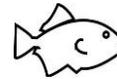
SECOND TUESDAY AT THE CHATEAU

Second Tuesday at the Chateau will meet for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 in the Chateau dining room. If you would like to attend, please call Sharon Metcalfe at 651-5274 or Ruth Needle at 334-4515 so that arrangements can be made for a table to accommodate all of us. We will order off the menu with each person being responsible for their own lunch. All are welcome.



At this time, coffee will be available before church in the Atrium area off of the Narthex. If you don't know where this is, ask an usher and enjoy a cup of coffee with others.


"I am the resurrection and the life"
Roberts Williams
February 17, 1930-March 20, 2017

April Meal-a-Month

1 lb package of pasta
 Can of Spaghetti sauce
 Can of carrots or peas
 Canned Fruit of Choice


Memorials

Memorials have been received in memory of:

Walker Irvin, from Evelyn Stover, Daryl Henry

Rob Williams, from Michael & Gwenda Bennett, Stephen & Marsha Limbaugh, Wayne & Connie Nessler, Dr. & Mrs. Keith Deimund, Marvin & Janet Wright, Kris Sneed, James & Beverly Hirsch, Robin Davis, Julie & Tim Carter, Diane Lankford, Madge Ridings, Oliver, Oliver, & Waltz Pc, Bob & Clairlee Hirsch, Willie Phillips, Cutter & Company Inc

Jack Wyant, from Daryl Henry

Hereme Mattox, from Daryl Henry



Please Remember

As the Spring Cleaning bug hits you and you're in the mood to do some cleaning out, don't forget our Rummage Sale this fall.

The Mission Committee will be happy to pick up items you don't need or use anymore. No clothing. Just call Georganne Syler (450-0213) or Donna Pikey (335-8908) for more information.



Troop 4 BBQ will be April 30, immediately after church in Fellowship Hall. Lunch tickets are Adults \$8/Child \$4. Bulk BBQ sold by the pound \$9 or by whole pork butt for \$30. Proceeds are to help boys go to Summer Camp, which is \$275 each.

Call Shirley 382-0495, 335-2579 or Will Bahn 450-7976 if you want to order bulk BBQ. Lunch tickets can be purchased at the door.



APRIL PRAYER CALENDAR

The Session hopes you will use this 'Prayer Calendar' as we daily pray for each other and some of the mission concerns of our church.

- 1ST Presbytery of Beaver-Butler
- 2ND Sarah Holt (birthday)
- 3RD Presbytery of Carlisle
- 4TH Presbytery of Donegal
- 5TH Willie Phillips (birthday)
Kathy Brown (birthday)
- 6TH The Presbytery of Huntingdon
- 7TH Joan Gohn (birthday)
Will Bahn (birthday)
Hannah Taylor (birthday)
- 8TH Presbytery of Lackawanna
- 9TH Joanna Shaver (birthday)
- 10TH The Synod of Alaska-Northwest
- 11TH John Broeckling (birthday)
- 12TH Presbytery of Northumberland
- 13TH The Presbytery of Philadelphia
- 14TH Pittsburgh Presbytery
- 15TH The Presbytery of Redstone
- 16TH Kathy Woodfin (birthday)
- 17TH Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery
- 18TH Leland Shivelbine (birthday)
- 19TH Washington Presbytery
- 21ST Karen Fieser Flowers (birthday)
- 22ND The Presbytery of West Virginia
- 23RD Ann Ritter (birthday)
- 24TH Presbytery of Central Washington
- 25th Presbytery of Northwest Coast
- 26TH Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
- 27TH Bob & Cherie Herbst (anniversary)
- 28TH Ralph Sitter (birthday)
- 29TH Emily Harris (birthday)
- 30TH Presbytery of Yukon

From the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

God of all creation, teach us to protect and preserve; teach us to love our neighbors as ourselves; teach us humility before all you have created. Teach us to treat our food and the land from which it comes with reverence. In the name of Jesus, who is the true bread of life. Amen.

April 2017

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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